

## **WOMT Summary for February 1, 2011**

The WOMT met and discussed the following:

The Smelt Working Group reported no recommendation for Delta smelt or longfin smelt at this time. The Working Group estimated that the overall risk of entrainment was low given the distributional data from recent surveys and believes that, based upon what is known of Delta conditions and delta smelt distribution, a modification of Project operations to protect delta smelt is not yet warranted.

The DOSS advice to the WOMT and NMFS is for the CVP/SWP to continue operating to a 14-day average OMR flow of no more negative than -5000 cfs. NMFS concurs that Projects operation to a 14-day average of OMR flow of no more negative than -5000 cfs will provide a sufficient level of protection for older juvenile Chinook salmon residing within the interior Delta.

The fish agencies recommended that CVPIA b2 environmental water be used to maintain Sacramento River releases at 4,000 cfs through February and possibly March to reduce potential dewatering of Chinook salmon redds and potential stranding of emerging alevins. It was noted that reducing flows below 4,000 cfs runs the risk of dewatering ESA listed juvenile winter-run, spring-run, and steelhead which are actively emigrating at this time of year. In addition, since 122,000 ESA listed hatchery winter-run will be released on February 3, 2011 in Redding, these hatchery released winter-run is currently above the usual areas of stranding on the Sacramento River. USBR staff indicated that this recommendation has been elevated to their management.